



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL  
April 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

**D R A F T**

**Members in Attendance:** Lisa Sheppard, Co-Chair, Robyn Trowbridge, Co-Chair, Linda Mizzi, Sharon Dexler, Sara Lourie, Mona Tremblay, Laura Knapp, Jen Carroll, and Ann Gionet.

**Excused Members:** Marie Bennett

**Location:** Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, Hartford

Lisa Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:23am.

I. Public Comment:

- a. Jennifer Carroll asked members about resources related to transportation for a preschool aged child intra-district.

II. March Minutes:

- a. Motion by Sharon Dexler to accept minutes that were read by Jennifer Carroll with proposed corrections. Seconded by Ann Gionet.
- b. Discussion included comments from members that minutes weren't attached to email from Karen Geary that had the agenda attached. Other members pointed out that minutes are always available on the DDS website.
- c. Motion passed in member vote (5 yes, 4 abstentions).

III. Old Business:

- a. School Climate – Lisa Sheppard expressed concerns about school climate legislation, requirements and initiatives. Members held rich conversation about the value of this topic and its relevance to family support and the mission of the council. Members discussed having a presentation for the council by Joan Feinberg and George Sugai. Co-Chairs of the CTFSC will seek assistance from Colleen Hayles to engage Joan Feinberg, and will seek contact with Mr. Sugai as well.
- b. By-Laws Sub-Committee – The sub-committee met on April 9<sup>th</sup> and reviewed existing by-laws and proposed changes. Sara Laurie will be developing a working draft for distribution to members at the May meeting or sooner if possible. The plan is that FSC members will have discussion of by-laws at the May meeting and be prepared to vote on proposed changes at the June meeting.
- c. Phone-in Capability – Members discussed the phone-in option for meetings. The current by-laws state that co-chairs can make phone-in an option for meetings.

The pros and cons of phone participation were discussed, and feelings were strong for both pros and cons. There was a suggestion to provide members with “phone-in etiquette”, to do a survey of members to see who would like to or need a phone in option, to have meetings always at the same location where we know a phone is available, and to look into the possibility of a FSC conference line through one of the conference calling websites. Further discussion should be held at the May meeting. At this time, meetings will be held at P&A – availability at that site for conference calling. This will be piloted to determine how this is working.

#### IV. New Business:

- a. Membership – There is still a need to fill vacant membership positions. Laura asked of children would be welcome if that made it possible for a parent to become an active member. General discussion of getting information out about the FSC followed. No action was taken.
- b. There was a question of follow-up to legislators regarding the annual report. The consensus was that is a good idea on a personal level, but that the council as a whole would not seek a response from each legislator.

Meeting was adjourned at noon with a motion by Sharon Drexler and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sara Lourie, with unanimous passing of member vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Carroll.